

**Listing of the Claims:**

Claims 1-5 (withdrawn)

Claim 6 (currently amended) An endotoxin removal adsorbent comprising a ligand immobilized on a solid phase support medium, the ligand consisting essentially of a mixture of ~~linear or branched~~ oligopeptides, of which at least one oligopeptide is a branched oligopeptide, said oligopeptides being composed of one or more amino acids having a pK > 7.2, said oligopeptides being polydisperse with respect to molecular weight and to number of branches per molecule.

Claim 7 (original) The adsorbent of claim 6 wherein the solid phase support medium is porous sufficient to allow passage of blood cells therethrough.

Claim 8 (original) The adsorbent of claim 6 wherein the solid phase support medium is in the form of beads.

Claim 9 (original) The adsorbent of claim 6 wherein the ligand is covalently bound to the solid phase support medium.

Claim 10 (original) The adsorbent of claims 6, 8 or 9 wherein the amino acid is selected from the group consisting of arginine, lysine and histidine.

Claim 11(original) The adsorbent of claims 8 or 9 wherein said oligopeptides are polydisperse with an R<sub>f</sub> value of 0.4 or greater as measured by thin layer chromatography on silica gel using a system of CH<sub>3</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub>:CH<sub>3</sub>OH:NH<sub>3</sub>/40:40:20 in 45% NH<sub>3</sub> solution.

Claim 12(original) The adsorbent of claims 8 or 9 wherein said oligopeptides are polydisperse with an  $R_f$  value of 0.6 or greater as measured by thin layer chromatography on silica gel using a system of  $\text{CH}_3\text{Cl}_2:\text{CH}_3\text{OH}:\text{NH}_3/40:40:20$  in 45%  $\text{NH}_3$  solution.

Claim 13(original) The adsorbent of claims 8, 9, 11 or 12 wherein the amino acid is arginine.

Claims 14-26 (withdrawn)